

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

**AVERY LANDING NON-TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL
AVERY, IDAHO**

JANUARY 2010



**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA)
SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS COMMITTED
TO PROMOTING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AGENCY.

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT.

EPA'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE
AVERY LANDING NON-TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL
ARE DESIGNED TO

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL AFFECT THEM,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE RESPONSES UNDER CONSIDERATION TO REMEDY THESE ISSUES, AND

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE REMEDY

Commented [e1]: Delete "will" and substitute "may."

Commented [e2]: Suggest you delete "responses" and substitute "cleanup actions" which is likely more understandable from a public perspective.

Commented [e3]: Delete "remedy" which is a remedial word and substitute "removal action" or "cleanup action."

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1.0 Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Avery Landing Site and EPA and to encourage community involvement in site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses Avery Landing's relationship to the community and EPA (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents EPA's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. EPA's Regional Office will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this Plan.

Commented [e4]: Suggest you delete this sentence. It accomplishes nothing and may only raise concerns about someone located hundreds of miles away overseeing this activity.

2.0 Capsule Site Description

2.1 Site History

The Site was used as a switching and maintenance facility for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad (CMSPR) from 1909 to 1977. Activities performed by the railroad at the facility included maintenance, refueling, and cleaning. On-site structures in support of these activities included a boiler house, coal dock, engine house, fan house, machine shop, oil tanks, pump house, roundhouse, storehouses, and a turntable. As a refueling station, fuel oil was stored on-site, including the use of a 500,000-gallon above ground fuel oil tank.

Commented [e5]: Change to 1907.

Commented [e6]: Revise to "On-site structures included a switchyard with train roundhouse and turntable, engine houses, and railroad maintenance and machine shops."

Commented [e7]: Change to "gallon."

CMSPR owned and operated the Site from 1907 to 1977. In 1977, CMSPR filed for bankruptcy. In 1980, Potlatch Corporation purchased the western portion of the property (Figure 2-3) from the Milwaukee Road Bankruptcy Trustee. In 1985, CMSPR reorganized under the name CMC Real Estate Company (CMC). The eastern portion of the property reverted back to the heir of the previous owner, before CMSPR began operations, David Therault. In 1996, Therault sold the property to Larry and Margie Bencik, who currently own the property. Another portion of the property was acquired by the Federal Highway Administration for use in the construction/expansion of State Highway 50. The Site has been used by Potlatch since 1980 for parking, staging, and temporary log storage. Potlatch Corporation leased part of the property from 1973 until 1980.

Commented [e8]: Delete this sentence.

2.2 Site Description/Location

The Site is located in the St. Joe River valley in the Bitterroot Mountains in northern Idaho, one mile west of the town of Avery, Shoshone County, Idaho. The Site is located directly adjacent to the St. Joe River to the south and Highway 50 to the north, at 47°13'57" North latitude and 115°43'40" West longitude. The St. Joe River is designated a special resource water that is used for wild life habitat, recreation, and as drinking water for downstream residents. According to the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) 58.01.02.110.11, the segment of the St. Joe River adjacent to the Site that could be impacted by contaminants found at the Site has the following designations: special resource water, domestic water supply, primary contact recreation, cold water communities, and salmonoid spawning. The Site is located in a narrow and remote river valley, and the immediate area around the Site is residential, recreational, and commercial.

Commented [e9]: Revise to "latitude 47°13'57" North and longitude 115°43'40" West."

Commented [e10]: Should insert a reference to the following figure. I'll also provide a better site photograph than a Google figure and some historic railroad photographs.



2.3 Site Inspections and Cleanup Activities

Commented [e11]: Suggest you change the title to something such as "Previous Cleanup Actions and Previous Investigations."

The earliest known release of petroleum product associated with railroad operations into the St. Joe River was reported in 1970, and observations of free petroleum product entering the river have continued through 2009.

Two prior cleanup actions have been conducted at the site. In 1995, a recovery system was installed to remove free petroleum product floating on top of groundwater. And in 2000, a containment system to prevent free product from flowing into the St. Joe River and a series of product extraction wells were installed at the site.

The Site has been under investigation since the late 1980s. Most recently, EPA conducted a removal assessment at the Site during April 2007. During this investigation, a petroleum ~~product sheen~~ was observed floating on groundwater in monitoring and recovery wells, and sampling confirmed that contamination was also present in subsurface soils and groundwater, and free product was also observed seeping into the St. Joe River along approximately 200 feet of river bank.

In August 2008, the EPA entered into an agreement with Potlatch to perform an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Biological Assessment (BA) and a Cultural Resources Evaluation (CRE) for site. The EE/CA will evaluate environmental data, present alternatives for cleaning up the contamination, and recommend a preferred cleanup alternative. The BA will evaluate how any cleanup action will affect threatened or endangered species, such as bull trout, and critical habitat. The CRE will evaluate and document any railroad remnants of historic importance.

During the summer and fall of 2009, Potlatch conducted an investigation to gather additional soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater data to better understand the nature and extent of contamination and to provide a framework for preparation of a constructed soil test pits and installed groundwater monitoring wells, and collected groundwater, soil, surface water, and sediment samples as part of the environmental investigation work leading to the draft EE/CA rReport.

Next steps:

- Draft EE/CA Report will be released for public review and comment
- Following public comment, EPA will select a final cleanup alternative for site contamination
- EPA will negotiate an administrative order with Potlatch for conduct of the cleanup action
- Planning for and conduct of the selected cleanup alternative

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3.0 Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

Avery is a small unincorporated town set in the St. Joe River Valley in Shoshone County, Idaho. Avery is located in the middle of the St. Joe District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Avery is a popular tourist attraction in northern Idaho for its beautiful wilderness and outdoor recreation. Common activities include camping, hunting, ATV riding, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, and rafting. Avery has a population of about 57 permanent residents. The temporary population is much higher in the summer though due to seasonal workers for the United States Forest Service and the many summer homes in Avery and along the St. Joe River.

The elevated concentrations of hazardous substances and total petroleum hydrocarbons indicate that air (inhalation), direct contact (dermal), and soil (ingestion) human exposure pathways exist. Nearby residents, recreationists, and/or trespassers could be exposed to the contaminants. The potential for exposure is elevated further because Site access is unrestricted and limited vegetative cover may result in the redistribution of contaminants throughout the surrounding environment. Moreover, there exists Site-related chronic petroleum product releases to the St. Joe River and shoreline.

Ecological receptors, including avian, mammalian, and plant receptors, could become exposed to elevated site contaminants and petroleum product found in soils through direct contact with the contaminated materials and with water and sediments contaminated by the materials; ingestion of soils, water, and sediments contaminated by the materials; and ingestion of contaminated food (e.g., sediment- or soil-dwelling insects, vegetation).

Commented [e12]: These paragraphs appear out of context with the "Community Profile." This section should focus on surrounding land use and populations only, and any discussion of the Site contaminant problems should likely be moved to Section 2.3 as a summary.

3.2 History of Community Involvement

On Monday, April 16, 2007, Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator made a visit to Avery and spoke with people in the following locations: (should be as specific as possible with citing locations and people)

- The Avery post office
- The gift shop (not clear what this gift shop is)
- Sheffy's General Store and Motel~~quick stop~~
- The Avery pub (not clear what this tavern is)
- ~~The Idaho Fly Fishing Company Store~~new fly fishing store under construction
- Avery School (K-8, visible from the site.)
- Swiftwater Motel & RV Park
- USFS Avery Ranger Station at Hoyt Flat
- Caretakers on the south end of the landing

On November 18th, Jeff Philip, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator conducted community interviews in the Avery pub.

3.3 Key Community Concerns

The community members we spoke with are very concerned about the economy. They wondered what was going on at the site from a curiosity perspective, but did not express concern about it. They were interested in any jobs created by the cleanup.

3.4 Response to Community Concerns

~~None taken to date.~~ Recommend the deleted response be revised to state something like EPA will encourage whomever conducts the cleanup to search for local employment and procurement opportunities?onable su

3.5 Summary of Communication Needs

Fact sheets at major milestones, public comment opportunity on EE/CA.

4.0 EPA's Community Involvement Program

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the EPA and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews described earlier; it addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

4.1 The Plan

Keep the public informed and up to date.

Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)

- Caryn Klaff will handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. She will work closely with Earl Liverman, EPA's Remedial Project Manager for the site.

Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries.

- Fact sheets about site milestones will be mailed to all parties in the Avery mailing Zip code. In addition, copies will be available at the information repository and in various cooperating business locations in the community.

Provide EPA Region 10's toll-free "800 number" for the community to contact EPA.

- This will enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet, and without incurring any cost.

Commented [e13]: Seems like a lot of what is stated below could be combined into far fewer activities. For example: fact sheets, EE/CA, information (toll free, web site, AR, etc.)

Commented [e14]: Aaaargh! I'm an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) not an RPM.

Commented [e15]: Suggest you state what the milestones are such as availability of EE/CA for review, action memorandum, start and completion of cleanup activitiesw

Maintain a mailing list for the Site.

- EPA will create a mailing list that includes all residences in the Avery zip code and will review/revise it periodically to keep it current. This will facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site.

Establish and maintain an Information Repository in the EPA Region 10 Seattle office and one on or near the site.

Commented [e16]: Delete and state at a location within Avery yet to be determined.

- The repository is a reference collection of site information containing the Administrative Record file, other site-specific information located in a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site and EPA activities.
- EPA will add new documents as they become available.

Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet.

- This will provide key resources for searching and listing both general and specific information about Superfund and hazardous waste issues.
- A Site Status Summary for this site can be found at http://www.epaossc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=2897. Information about EPA and Superfund can be found at:
 - EPA Headquarters: <http://www.epa.gov>
 - EPA Region 10: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>
 - EPA Region 10 Cleanup: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/Cleanup>

The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the site will be placed on the internet when it is completed.

- Site Status Summaries will be periodically updated.

Establish and maintain the Administrative Record.

- This will provide residents with a paper trail of all documents, resources, etc. used by the Remedial Project Manager and Site Team in reaching all decisions about the site and its cleanup.
- EPA will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record for the site, one in the EPA Region 10 offices located at 1200 Sixth Ave, Seattle, WA and one located in the local Information Repository near the site.

Commented [e17]: Aaaargh!

Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement.

Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period.

- Objective: To give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various EPA documents, especially the EE/CA. This provides the citizens with meaningful involvement in the process and also provides the Site Team with valuable information for use in making decisions.
- Method: EPA will announce each comment period separately. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and EPA fact sheets; they will include particulars on duration, how to make comments, where to submit comments, etc.
- Timing: Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the announcement of the Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

Commented [e18]: This is somewhat misleading. While people could comment on anything and everything, the only thing that is actually out for "public comment" is the draft EE/CA.

Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary.

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the EPA has considered those comments during the decision-making process, and to provide responses to major comments.
- Method: EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Record of Decision. The Responsiveness Summary will include four sections: 1. Overview; 2. Background on Community Involvement; 3. Summary of comments received and Agency responses; 4. Remedial Design/Remedial Action concerns. All information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- Timing: EPA will issue the Responsiveness Summary as part of the Record of Decision.

Commented [e19]: This is NOT a remedial action, rather it IS a removal action. As such, all references to a remedial action must be deleted and replaced with removal action terms and concepts. For example, there is not a ROD, rather there is an action memorandum; the responsiveness summary will be part of the action memorandum; etc.

Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the site or the cleanup remedy that are not currently addressed in this CIP.
- Method: The Revised CIP will update the information presented in the previous version of the CIP.
- Timing: EPA will revise the CIP as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

4.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)	Complete

Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries	Ongoing
Provide EPA Region 10's toll-free "800 number" for the community to contact EPA	Ongoing
Maintain a mailing list for the Site	Ongoing
Establish and maintain an Information Repository in the EPA Region 10 Seattle office and one on or near the site	ASAP
The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the site will be placed on the internet when it is completed	When complete
Establish and maintain the Administrative Record	Established, update as needed
Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period	As needed and required
Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment periods
Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP)	As needed, at least every 3 years

Commented [e20]: Not correct, the AR has not yet been established.

Commented [e21]: There will be only one.

Commented [e22]: Everything should be complete within three years. How about something like "as needed"?

Appendix A: EPA Regional Contacts

Earl Liverman
Federal On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Tel: 208.664.4858
Fax: 208.664.5829
E-mail: liverman.earl@epa.gov

Caryn Klaff
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
Tel: 206.553.1275
Fax: 206.553.2955
E-mail: klaff.caryn@epa.gov

Appendix B: Local, State, & Federal Officials

Superintendent's Office Avery School District 394:
370 Old River Rd, Avery - (208) 245-2479

Postmaster General: 10 Depot, Avery - (208) 245-3557

Governor: C.L. "Butch" Otter

State Senators: Mike Crapo & James E. Risch

Representatives: Walt Minnick (ID 1st District)

Idaho DEQ: Toni Hardesty

Appendix C: Media Contacts

Newspapers:

St. Maries Gazette Record

Shoshone News Press - Kellogg, ID www.shoshonenewspress.com

Appendix D: Repository Locations

Local Repository:

EPA Region 10 Repository:

EPA Region 10 Records Center

1200 6th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

Tel: 206.553.4494

Hours Open to Public:

Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

(closed on weekends and Federal holidays)